

**Materials Reuse Network**  
**Special Meeting - December 28, 2009**

**Should we apply to host BMRA Decon'11 Conference?**

**Person:** Bill Smith, Tom Chase, Lil Snyder, Mary Bennett, John Powers, Greg Secord, Sherill Baldwin  
**Phone:** Charles Paonessa, Joe DeRisi, Tony Philpin, Carie Jones, Linda Jacobs, Kevin Drew, Chris Beling

This 'special meeting' was planned quickly via elist because Sherill was approached by the BMRA Board (John Majercak) – wondering if we (MRN/CT DEP) would be interested in hosting/sponsoring/coordinating the BRMA Spring 2011 conference in Connecticut. BMRA needs an answer – about our interest – by January 10<sup>th</sup>. If we're interested, it doesn't mean we get to host – it means we will then need to apply.

Whether we think we're ready for this or not, it's an incredible honor to be asked. It means we are getting noticed in Connecticut!

Meeting today is to talk about the idea of MRN hosting the conference. We would, of course, be looking for strong partners to come forward – including a university or college that could physically host the event – and others that could provide a variety of resources. The biggest part would be the need for 'a person' to spearhead the effort – or perhaps a team of folks. I propose a meeting/call to discuss this further.

**What we know: timeline** – April or May 2011  
BMRA decon conference – multiple days (Sun-Wed)  
250+ people; couple dozen for training/tours

-Need a sponsor where the event can take place; and a person to do the day-to-day coordination

Who's willing to work:

- Larry French (emailed Sherill before)
- Lil Snyder – will ask City of New Haven/Merchants Association, Yale
- Chris Beling – EPA Region I usually supports efforts like this – in form of staff time, possibly money – help with web presence/registration. Will also look to EPA Region II for support.
- Tom Chase – Yale's Ctr of Industrial Ecology – maybe a student project or club could be formed to work on the conference?
- John Powers – *"this is the best thing since sliced bread"*
- Charles Paonessa – TRP – national, possible sponsor?
- Greg Secord – ReBuilding Together – national, 5 local affiliates in CT – trying to set up more
- Sherill Baldwin – DEP willing to have Sherill work on in 'guidance' capacity – but not the detailed 'on-the ground' person. If we move forward – this will become the main focus for MRN's agenda – outreach of increasing awareness/promoting building materials reuse.
- Kevin Drew – will bring to CT GBC Education Committee 12/29 to see of their interest
- Linda Jacobs – will share Buffalo Reuse's application
- Bill Smith – CT Recyclers Coalition – will bring to their next meeting to see of their interest
- Carie Jones (emailed Sherill after meeting) – how to include ex-offenders learning about deconstruction/green building in the process/event

Overall, everyone felt this would be a positive thing for Connecticut. It would be a great way of providing outreach – increasing awareness of building materials reuse by having the conference here. There's never been a conference (BMRA/National) in New England – and folks felt it was time for such an event. So overwhelmingly, people agreed we should pursue the application.

### **Questions for BMRA:**

- How much cash is needed (sponsorships) to pull this event off?
  - How much of that needs to be raised by us/locally?
- The assumption was that the BMRA's conference committee works with the local committee – is this correct?
  - Is the agenda set together? Or is the agenda set by BMRA?
- Are there exhibitors/vendors, and if so how many usually attend and how much space is needed (This was posed by Sherill later in email to Bob Falk/John Majercak) .

Time was not spent brainstorming sponsors or partners, per se, but rather where partners were in proximity to the two proposed sites – the hub of Hartford or hub of New Haven.

### **Possible Sponsors/Partners:**

Colleges and Universities: Yale (FES, Sustainability, Ctr of Industrial Ecology), Gateway Community College (Sust. Building program), Univ of Hartford (School of Architecture), CCSU (construction management), Three Rivers (?)

Industry/Businesses: CT Green Building Council, AIA CT, Manafort Brothers, Haz-Pros, John's Refuse/Global Environmental, Babylon Recycling, Habitat for Humanity (national), Whole Foods, Lowes/Home Depot?, Shaw's/Interface (carpet recycling), USG/Armstrong (ceiling systems), The Reuse People, reach out to building association, recycling industry

### **Other miscellaneous ideas that came up:**

- Have a deconstruction site – in-progress during the event (tour/workshop)
- Student “academic poster” contest – amongst all the schools involved in sustainable building/materials management
- Offer workshops with LEED accreditation
- Reclaimed Lumber in New Haven – good tour site, possible speaker
- Have event held at a certified “green lodging” facility?

Notes submitted by Sherill Baldwin 12/29/09